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The six hundred and thirty-eighth meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, London on the 22nd November, 1966.

*Chairman: Mr. R. S. R. Fitter*

Members present: 24; guests 13.

### Birds in Holland

Jeffery and Pamela Harrison showed colour shots of a short visit to Holland taken in May 1966 on the occasion of the Second European Meeting on Wildfowl Conservation. Pictures were shown of various breeding reserves, notably at Naadermeer, on Texel and in Zeeland. The use of artificial reed platforms by nesting Black Terns was shown and discussed. Views were seen of the new barrage joining North and South Beveland Islands, as part of the great Delta Scheme. The likely effects of this on wildfowl and waders were mentioned, particularly the displacement of 20,000 Barnacle Geese and 10,000 Greylags—the latter having specialised feeding habits on sea club rush beds, which will all be destroyed.

### The race of *Acrocephalus rufescens* in Zambia

by MELVIN A. TRAYLOR

*Received 26th August, 1966*

In 1957, Benson and White (Checklist Birds No. Rhodesia, p. 88) recorded the race of the Northern Rhodesian (=Zambian) populations of the Greater Swamp-warbler, *Acrocephalus rufescens*, as *niloticus*. White

also used this name in his Checklist of Ethiopian Muscicapidae (Sylviinae) (1960, *Occ. Pap. Nat. Mus. So. Rhod.*, 24B, p. 413), but suggested that *niloticus* might prove to be the same as *ansorgei* of northern Angola. In 1962 (*Publ. Cult. Co. Diam. Ang.*, Lisboa, 58, p. 86) I was able to compare the type of *ansorgei* with two birds from Kabompo, western Zambia. These latter proved to be *ansorgei*, but with no material from eastern Zambia it was not possible to decide whether two races were present in that country, or whether *niloticus* was a synonym of *ansorgei*. In order to resolve this problem, I have borrowed specimens from East Africa, the eastern Congo, Zambia and Angola (including the type of *ansorgei*) so that direct comparisons of all populations could be made. For their kindness in lending these specimens I would like to thank Dean Amadon of the American Museum of Natural History, New York, and M. P. Stuart Irwin of the National Museum of Rhodesia, Bulawayo. I would also like to thank Con Benson for stimulating my interest and arranging the loans.

When specimens from Uganda, western Kenya, Zambia, Ngamiland and Angola are compared, they are found to belong to a single taxon for which *ansorgei* is the earliest name. Compared to nominate *rufescens*, *ansorgei* is larger and darker; wings of *rufescens* males measure 72–78, while those of *ansorgei* measure 77–82. The type of *ansorgei* is somewhat browner than recent specimens from Zambia, but it is over 60 years old, and this difference is most probably due to foxing. The range of *ansorgei* is the southern Sudan, Uganda, adjoining Congo, and extreme western Kenya; Zambia and Ngamiland; and north-west Angola in Malange and southern Cuanza Norte. A closely related and poorly marked race, *foxi*, is found in the highlands of south-west Uganda and Kivu. It is distinguished from *ansorgei* only on greater size, wing 80–85, and may not actually be recognizable.

Specimens from the west slopes of Ruwenzori and from the Ituri and upper Uelle are somewhat paler than normal *ansorgei*, and in this character, but not in size, show the influence of the West African *rufescens*. The latter ranges from southern Nigeria west to the central northern Congo and south to the Congo mouth and northern Cuanza Norte in Angola. An even paler small form, *chadensis*, is recorded from Lake Chad, and to round out the range of the species, Morel and Roux (1962, *Oiseau*, p. 49) record an isolated population from Richard Toll on the lower Senegal River. Their specimens of the latter were not adequate for subspecific determination.

## On the "creaminess" in the plumage of *Ducula bicolor* (Scopoli)

by HUMAYUN ABDULALI

Received 10th September, 1966

The Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* (Scopoli) ranges from the Andaman Islands in the Indo-Malayan region to New Guinea and Australia. It was noticed long ago that many portions of its plumage were